

SENATE RESOLUTION 269—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, GIVEN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S CONDUCT IN CHECHNYA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HELMS submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 269

Whereas the Senate of the United States unanimously passed Senate Resolution 262 on February 24th, 2000, to condemn the indiscriminate use of force by the Government of the Russian Federation against the people of Chechnya, to prompt peace negotiations between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Chechnya led by elected President Aslan Maskhadov, and to prompt the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately grant international organizations full and unimpeded access in Chechnya and the surrounding regions so that they can provide much needed humanitarian assistance and investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

Whereas the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate received credible evidence and testimony reporting that Russian forces in Chechnya caused the deaths of countless thousands of innocent civilians; caused the displacement of well over 250,000 innocents; forcibly relocated refugee populations; and have committed widespread atrocities, including summary executions, torture, and rape;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly violated the principles of the freedom of the press by subjecting journalists, such as Radio Free Liberty/Radio Europe correspondent Andrei Babitsky, who oppose or question its policies to censorship, intimidation, harassment, incarceration, and violence;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation continues its military campaign in Chechnya, including the use of indiscriminate force, causing further dislocation of people from their homes, the deaths of non-combatants and widespread suffering;

Whereas this war contributes to ethnic hatred and religious intolerance within the Russian Federation, jeopardizes prospects for the establishment of democracy in the Russian Federation, undercuts the ability of the international community to trust the Russian Federation as a signatory to international agreements, generates political instability within the Russian Federation, and is a threat to the peace in the region; and

Whereas the Senate expresses its concern over the war and humanitarian tragedy in Chechnya, and its desire for a peaceful and durable settlement to the conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the indifference of most Western governments, including that of the United States, toward this conflict has encouraged the Government of the Russian Federation to intensify and expand its military campaign in Chechnya, further contributing to the suffering of the Chechen people;

(2) the Acting President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, is directly responsible for the conduct of Russian troops in and around Chechnya and accountable for war crimes and atrocities committed by them against the Chechen people;

(3) the Acting President of the Russian Federation should—

(A) immediately cease the military operations in Chechnya and initiate negotiations toward a just peace with the leadership of the Chechen government, including President Aslan Maskhadov;

(B) grant international missions immediate full and unimpeded access into Chechnya and surrounding regions so that they can monitor and report on the situation there and investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

(C) allow international humanitarian agencies immediate full and unimpeded access to Chechen civilians, including those in refugee, detention and so-called "filtration camps" or any other facility where citizens of Chechnya are detained; and

(D) investigate fully the atrocities committed in Chechnya, including those alleged in Alkhan-Yurt and Grozny, and initiate prosecutions against officers and soldiers accused of those atrocities;

(4) the President of the United States should—

(A) affirm respect for human rights, democratic rule of law, and international accountability as a foundation of United States foreign policy;

(B) affirm respect for human rights, democratic rule of law, and international accountability as a precondition to United States-Russian cooperation;

(C) reevaluate United States foreign policy toward the Russian Federation given its conduct in Chechnya, remilitarization, and questionable commitment to democracy;

(D) support societal forces in the Russian Federation fighting to preserve democracy there, including empowering human rights activists and promoting programs designed to strengthen the independent media, trade unions, political parties, civil society, and the democratic rule of law;

(E) promote peace negotiations between the Government of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Chechen government, including President Aslan Maskhadov, through third-party mediation by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations, or other appropriate parties;

(F) endorse the call of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for an investigation of alleged war crimes committed by the Russian military in Chechnya; and

(G) take tangible steps to demonstrate to the Government of the Russian Federation that the United States strongly condemns its conduct in Chechnya and its unwillingness to find a just political solution to the conflict in Chechnya, including—

(i) a refusal to participate in bilateral summit meetings with the Government of the Russian Federation;

(ii) a call for the suspension of the Russian Federation from the forum of G-7 plus 1 state; and

(iii) a suspension of financial assistance to the Russian Federation provided through the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and

(5) the President of the United States should not reverse the actions taken under paragraph (4)(G) until the Government of the Russian Federation has—

(A) ceased its military operations in Chechnya and initiated negotiations toward a just peace with the leadership of the Chechen government led by President Aslan Maskhadov;

(B) provided full and unimpeded access into and around Chechnya to international missions to monitor and report on the situation there and to investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

(C) granted international humanitarian agencies immediate full and unimpeded access to Chechen civilians, including those in refugee, detention, and so-called "filtration camps" or any other facility where citizens of Chechnya are detained; and

(D) investigated fully the atrocities committed in Chechnya including those alleged in Alkhan-Yurt and Grozny, and initiated prosecutions against officers and soldiers accused of those atrocities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 270—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 11, 2000, AS "NATIONAL GIRL SCOUT WEEK"

Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported the following original resolution; which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 270

Whereas March 12, 2000, is the 88th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America;

Whereas on March 16, 1950, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America became the first national organization for girls to be granted a Federal charter by Congress;

Whereas through annual reports required to be submitted to Congress by its charter, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America regularly informs Congress of its progress and program initiatives;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America is dedicated to inspiring girls and young women with the highest ideals of character, conduct, and service to others so that they may become model citizens in their communities;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America offers girls aged 5 through 17 a variety of opportunities to develop strong values and life skills and provides a wide range of activities to meet girls' interests and needs;

Whereas the Girl Scouts of the United States of America has a membership of nearly 3,000,000 girls and over 900,000 adult volunteers, and is one of the preeminent organizations in the United States committed to girls growing strong in mind, body, and spirit; and

Whereas by fostering in girls and young women the qualities on which the strength of the United States depends, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, for 88 years, has significantly contributed to the advancement of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning March 11, 2000, as "National Girl Scout Week" and calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 271—REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: